

## Pitching Our Tents Toward Sodom

BY REV. SAM MORRIS  
of Voice of Temperance  
Broadcast

The story of Abraham and Lot as found recorded in the thirteenth and nineteenth chapters of Genesis is both interesting and destructive. This uncle and nephew journeyed together in peace, harmony and fellowship until their substance was great, but here, as in so many cases, prosperity disrupted the harmony and fellowship of these devoted relatives. Many husbands and wives, when they were poor and struggling for a daily living, loved each other, dwelled together in peace, harmony and confidence, then more prosperous times came, they neglected their domestic relations, forgot God and ultimately separated.

"And Abram said unto Lot, Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen; for we be brethren. 'Is not the whole land before thee? separate thyself, I pray thee, from me: if thou wilt take the left hand, then I will go to the right; or if thou depart to the right hand, then I will go to the left.'"

—Genesis 13:8, 9.

That was a mighty fine attitude for this rich old uncle to take toward his nephew, wasn't it? He could have become arrogant and in wrath said, "All you have you owe to me. I took you as an orphan. It was through my goodness you have all these cattle. Now you make those herdmen of yours behave themselves."

But Abraham did not take that attitude. He did not "throw up" to Lot the fact of Lot's indebtedness to him. Abraham did not burn any bridges behind him. He left no hard feelings rankling in the soul of Lot.

The parting of the ways is described as follows:

"And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered everywhere, before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, even as the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt, as thou comest unto Zoar."

"Then Lot chose him all the

plain of Jordan: and Lot journeyed east: and they separated themselves the one from the other:

"Abram dwelled in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelled in the cities of the plain, and pitched his tent toward Sodom" (Gen. 13:10-12).

In making their choice, Lot thought in terms of the wonderful plain country of Jordan, its sparkling waters, its waving grass: he thought in terms of fat cattle, woolly sheep and ever enlarging herds. He didn't take into consideration the character of the people among whom he wanted to sojourn. He didn't take into consideration the effect of their association upon his family, upon his children and upon himself. It was a choice based simply on material advantage. And as a solemn commentary upon that choice, God says:

"But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the Lord exceedingly."

—Genesis 13:13.

The nineteenth chapter of Genesis gives us the fatal result of that terrible choice that Lot made when he pitched his tent toward Sodom. The time of doom had come upon that wicked city and in response to the prayer of Abraham, God sent two angels to warn Lot and his family to get out of the city. Lot received their warning without a question, and in solemn faith hurried through the darkened streets of the city to the homes of his daughters with their families, aroused them from their slumber and in tones husky with fear, urged them: "Up, get you out of this place; for the Lord will destroy this city."

His warnings were futile. His influence upon his children was gone, for we read: "But he seemed as one that mocked unto his sons-in-law." They laughed at his fear, they scorned and scoffed at his pious warning. He had "sold out" to his world, greedy of material gain and now his "religion" meant nothing to the men who married his daughters.

Good neighbor, when you set your heart upon material gain, let it become the god of your life and to rule your choices, it will de-

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## God's Challenge to the Nation

DOES GOD HAVE A REMEDY FOR AMERICA'S ILLS?

BY EVANGELIST T. MYRON WEBB  
of Enid, Oklahoma

(Delivered by Rev. T. Myron Webb over Mid-Continent hookup: KMMJ, Grand Island, Nebraska; WNAX, Yankton, So. Dakota; KMA, Shenandoah, Iowa, Sunday, January 12. Stenographically reported.)

Good afternoon, friends! I have enjoyed many days of happy fellowship here in Nebraska, my native state. These days have been blessed by thousands of testimonies pouring in from the north, south, east and west, reporting results of the glorious revival now in progress here in the Mid-lands.

Many things crowd foremost to my mind, seeking expression, but I shall brush them aside and enter immediately into the discussion of our subject. Before I continue, I must warn you, however, that a diagnosis must be made of our present ill before the remedy can either be prescribed or applied.

A wise physician always makes a diagnosis before he prescribes. He must go to the seat of the trouble. There is a fundamental cause for every human disease. There is a fundamental cause for all of our social ills. A diagnosis many times reveals shocking things, things we would rather leave uncovered, but no matter how disagreeable the task, THE DIAGNOSIS MUST BE MADE. If this diagnosis reveals what is so evident to the thinking mind, we must meet it with the same calm that

a patient receives the diagnosis of a deadly disease in his body.

If this diagnosis reveals festering corruption in our social life, gangrenous and putrefactive conditions in our political and economic structure, our duty is to accept it calmly and not do the ostrich act of burying our heads in the sand and refusing to face facts. Before a patient can recover, many times a triple major operation must be performed. Festering corruption many times must be removed before wounds can heal. THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT MUST BE DONE IN AMERICA.

Everywhere These Questions Are Being Asked

What is wrong with the world? What is wrong with America? What is wrong with our economic system? What is wrong with our financial system? What is wrong with our labor organizations, our reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts? These questions fly like arrows from the savage Bushman's quiver. They require an answer.

As we survey the world today we see little to offer us any consolation. We see little promise of hope in the methods which have been used and are being used to solve the problems of our nation. Let us consider some of the methods which promise hope but fail to produce results:

THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS FAILED UTTERLY to maintain the peace of the world. Peace parley after peace parley was held

with no results. War with all its horror has again broken upon the people of this world. The ponderous tread of marching feet again rocks the foundation of civilization. Human blood is again staining the rivers of Europe red. War with all of its aftermath is threatening destruction of civilization. Famine is gripping the peoples of all nations. Pestilence like a grim spectre is ravaging Europe and threatening invasion not only of those peoples but of every family in the world.

Let Us Face Honestly the Situation In the United States

We are millions of dollars in debt: Reconstruction programs have failed: Soil conservation programs have failed: Wage and hour laws have failed: The Works Progress Administration has failed. These and many other methods put into effect have failed to bring back prosperity to start the wheels of industry in motion and relieve the unemployment situation. Today we are facing more internal dissension, more unemployment, more lawlessness, more depravity, more social degeneration than ever in the history of our nation.

What a Shameful Picture

Millions spent annually for unemployment; multiplied millions spent annually for old age security: these are all noble efforts but have not solved our problems. These are but a few of the evils in America. AMERICA'S SHAME—(CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO)

## Do All Christians Sin?

I. THE BEST CHRISTIANS IN THE BIBLE SINNED  
II. THE BIBLE TEACHES THAT EVERY CHRISTIAN SINS

BY EVANGELIST JOHN R. RICE

Yes, all Christians sin. The best Christians in the Bible sinned; sinned shamefully, sinned often, sinned after they were greatly enlightened, sinned after they were filled with God's Spirit. And the Bible says plainly, many times, that all Christians sin. Then on every hand there is proof that Christians sin. They get sick, they have to wear glasses, they get bald, or crippled. Their teeth decay. They have cancers, measles, dandruff, leprosy, colds! They get these diseases which are the mark of sin, after they are genuinely saved. Christians die, the greatest possible proof that they are still sinners, for death is simply the wages of sin, as the Bible so plainly says. Besides, the consciences of the best Christians in the world tell them that they are sinners. It has been so with the best soul winners, the greatest missionaries, the greatest Bible teachers. Millions of the best Christians in the world daily confess that they are sinners and ask forgiveness, just as the Lord Jesus commanded us to do in the Lord's prayer.

It is only a brazen few who claim that they never sin; and how brazen they are! And how much the Bible has to say in scorn against these self-righteous people who class themselves with Jesus Christ as being so good they never sin!

Yes, Christians sin, and the proof is so overwhelming that all who will come humbly, with an open heart and a teachable spirit to the Bible, searching, and surrendering

to the Holy Spirit that He may show His truth, will have it settled. I urge the reader to read with an open Bible, ready to give Christ the credit for saving and keeping Hell deserving sinners, AND NOBODY ELSE! For all Christians sin, as you will see, and only God's grace, paying for man's sins with the blood of His dear Son, Jesus Christ, could keep any of us out of Hell, because we are sinners. Unforgiven sinners we were before we were saved, forgiven sinners after we are saved, but sinners still, till our sinful natures are changed when we see Jesus.

I. The Best Christians in the Bible Sinned

By a Christian, of course, we mean a saved person, one whose sins are forgiven and who is a child of God. All who were ever saved were saved alike. Acts 10: 43 says, "To Him (Jesus) gave all the prophets witness, that through His name, whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins." So all the prophets of the Old Testament taught people to be saved by trusting Christ.

Noah, Abraham, Lot, Moses, Job, and David were Christians, therefore. They were forgiven sinners. They were saved by trusting in the coming Saviour. But all these saved men sinned often after they were saved.

Noah was the best man alive in the whole world and he with his family were the only ones saved from the flood. He is called a preacher of righteousness. But Genesis 9:1-23 tells us how Noah got drunk and lay naked in his

tent and brought a curse on his son and his son's descendants. Noah was a saved man, a preacher, one who loved God, but he sometimes sinned!

Abraham was called the friend of God and we are told that "Abraham believed God and it was counted unto him for righteousness." But Abraham did wrong more than once. God had plainly told him, "Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy Father's house unto a land that I will show thee" (Gen. 12:1). God told him that before he left the land of the Chaldees (Acts 7:2, 3).

(CONTINUED ON PAGE THREE)

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### Let Us Go On

"Therefore, leaving the . . . first principles . . . let us go on." —Hebrews 6:1.

Some of us stay at the cross,  
Some of us wait at the tomb,  
Quickened and raised together with Christ,  
Yet lingering still in its gloom;  
Some of us bide at the passover feast  
With Pentecost all unknown—  
The triumphs of grace in the heavenly place  
That our Lord has made our own.

If the Christ who died had stopped at the cross  
His work had been incomplete,  
If the Christ who was buried had stayed in the tomb  
He had only known defeat;  
But the way of the Cross never stops at the Cross,  
And the way of the Tomb leads on  
To victorious grace in the heavenly place  
Where the risen Lord has gone.

So, let us go on with our Lord  
To the fullness of God He has brought,  
Unsearchable riches of glory and good  
Exceeding our uttermost thought;  
Let us grow up into Christ,  
Claiming His life and its powers—  
The triumphs of grace in the heavenly place  
That our conquering Lord has made ours.  
—Annie Johnson Flint.



## God's Challenge To The Nation

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

FUL CONDITION IS UNCOVERED AND MANIFESTED by the billions spent annually for booze, prostitution, degeneracy, and debauchery.

J. Edgar Hoover has estimated the United States crime bill at FIFTEEN BILLION DOLLARS per annum. Our penitentiaries are full, our jails are overflowing, our insane asylums are packed, correction homes are overcrowded, courts for juvenile delinquents are weeks behind on their dockets. In America today we have practically as many divorces as marriages; homes are broken; lives are broken; hearts are broken; the laws are broken; vice dens are full; houses of bacchanalian revelry are full; booze joints are full; vulgarity and licentiousness abound while virtue, modesty, purity and decency goes begging.

### Spirituality Is At Low Ebb

The latest religious surveys reveal the shocking fact that less than five per cent of the people of America attend church regularly. THIRTY-FIVE MILLION CHILDREN IN AMERICA HAVE NO CHRISTIAN BACKGROUND OR INFLUENCE. Their souls are being neglected. Their morals are neglected, their spiritual life is nil, and then we have the unmitigated nerve to ask the question, "WHAT IS THE MATTER WITH AMERICA?" Do you want an answer? Do you want THE answer? Are you prepared to face the real truth? Then let me give it to you in a nut shell:

### America Has Forgotten God

"THE WICKED SHALL BE TURNED INTO HELL, AND ALL THE NATIONS THAT FORGET GOD" (Psa. 9:17). Did God know what He was talking about when He made this prophecy which is being fulfilled before our eyes? We need only to turn back the pages of time to find concrete evidence of this great truth: behold mighty Babylon; excelling in power and strength any world kingdom ever to exist. It was exalted to high heaven and the greatest world dominion ever known. Under Nebuchadnezzar, God's appointed king, Babylon was invincible in strength and impregnable in defense, BUT BABYLON FORGOT GOD, and when she forgot God she lost her strength and her place in the sun.

When Belshazzar and his lords polluted holy things which belonged to God, THE HANDWRITING ON THE WALL SAID: "You have been weighed in the balances and found wanting; your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians." Today once mighty Babylon is reduced to ruins and has become the habitation of bats and owls. WHY? "Because they forgot God."

Following, with the swiftness of the leopard rose the majestic empire of Medo-Persia. Under Darius, their mighty king, she was swift and tireless in battles. But where is Medo-Persia today? Like her predecessor, Babylon, she is gone and molded into the dust. WHY? BECAUSE MEDO-PERSIA FORGOT GOD.

Her successor, Greece, rose in mighty power, was invincible in war and conquest, but Greece chose to follow the course America is now pursuing. Greece sought the wisdom of the world instead of the wisdom of God. She sought to cultivate the intellect but neglected the soul. She preferred culture to Christianity and Greece, too, found these pagan Gods unable to furnish a solution to her social and economic problems and went down to ignominious defeat and the dissolution of her empire. Why? BECAUSE GREECE FORGOT GOD. IMPERIAL ROME, the might-

iest empire of all, whose valiant soldiers have written pages of history, was unequaled and unparalleled by any nation in its grandeur, pomp and pride, BUT ROME FORGOT GOD and fell before the pagan hordes of the Goths, Vandals and Huns.

Today Rome is still rotten to the core. Their soldiers have no heart; they have no conviction; they have no strength. Why? Because they have forgotten God.

When will rebellious man learn his lesson and when will we people of America come to the realization that honor, virtue, decency and all that constitutes the glories of manhood and womanhood cannot be maintained without implanting first a STRONG SPIRITUAL LIFE? A life united and imbedded in God; a spiritual power that would die rather than to surrender its principles, its ideals and its liberty? Remember, "THE WICKED SHALL BE TURNED INTO HELL, AND ALL THE NATIONS THAT FORGET GOD."

Can America take a lesson from France, that great dominion and kingdom which was invincible for over one hundred years? What happened to France? I'll tell you what happened. "FRANCE MADE HER BOAST THAT SHE HAD DRIVEN GOD OUT OF HER SCHOOLS AND HER NATION," and when God was driven out, France degenerated, decayed and decomposed, and came to be the most degenerate nation on earth with her spiritual life snuffed out and stripped of her morals. FRANCE SUFFERED IGNOMINIOUS DEFEAT.

Today France is a slave nation. Her puppets are marching to the task of slave labor at the point of Nazis' bayonets. France is reaping what she has sown. "He that soweth to the wind shall reap the whirlwind" (Hosea 8:7). From these awful lessons, let us stop! Let us look! Let us listen!

Mr. Businessman, Mr. Banker, Mr. Lawyer, Mr. Politician, Mr. Scientist, WILL YOU ANSWER THIS QUESTION?

In the glare of earthly pleasure, In the fight for earthly treasure, Midst your blessings without measure,

Have you forgotten God?

While His daily grace receiving Are you still His spirit grieving By a heart that is unbelieving, Have you forgotten God?

### God's Rebuke To a Backslidden Nation

In Jeremiah, the second chapter, God addresses a backslidden nation. He paints a graphic picture of a people overcome by this own wrong doings, a people who have brought evil upon themselves by their own willful wandering from God. He chides them in their pitiful plight; He enumerates the sins for which He brought swift judgment upon them. These are the sins for which God scattered Israel. These same sins have eaten the foundation from every fallen empire, dynasty and kingdom now sleeping in the tomb of time. God asks this question:

"HAS THIS NATION CHANGED THEIR GODS, WHICH ARE YET NO GODS? BUT MY PEOPLE HAVE CHANGED THEIR GLORY FOR THAT WHICH DOTHS NOT PROFIT."

Now, my friends, please underscore these words: "My people have changed their glory for that which doth not profit." God continues His lamentations and calls heaven and earth to record against their mighty sins: "Be ye astonished, O ye heavens at this, and be ye afraid, and be ye very desolate, saith the Lord . . . For my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and they have hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water."

Listen, my friends, is this not the plight of America? With violence, lawlessness, atheism and evolution rampant, with nakedness and loose morals, with drunkenness and debauchery abounding? MUST AMERICA NOT PLEAD GUILTY TO GOD'S CHARGE AGAINST HER? "Ye have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and have hewed out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water."

I want you to notice how God calls their attention to their former noble position which was high in the favor of God - Jeremiah 2:3: "Israel was holiness unto the Lord,

and the firstfruits of his increase: All that devour him shall offend; evil shall come upon them."

Now, my friends, GOD KEPT HIS AGREEMENT. As long as Israel stood with God they were blessed of God. God sent before them in war, they were small in numbers but overcame multiplied enemies. No nation could stand before them. They were blessed in the home, blessed in the land, blessed in the field, and blessed in the city as no other nation.

### America, the Only Nation To Parallel Israel in God's Purpose and Blessing

The thought I wish to impress you with today is that GOD DEALS WITH NATIONS. Nations who walk in the light of God's Word are always blessed beyond measure during the period of that walk. America once fitted the picture we here see of Israel. "America was wholly in the sun of the Lord."

Roll back the pages of time three hundred and forty years to the time when the Mayflower landed at Cape Cod. A CHURCH HAD COME TO AMERICA; not a political body; not an army of conquest; but a little body of Christians. They had fled the wickedness and tyranny of Europe for the sole purpose of worshipping God in peaceful assembly. This little body of Christians did not come to America for gold; THEY CAME SEEKING GOD. They raised on the shores of these United States not the Union Jack, not the Stars and Stripes, BUT THE BANNER OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.

When the Mayflower embarked, old John Robinson, who commanded the expedition, called his little assembly together and claimed God's promise to Abraham. He opened his Bible to Genesis 12:1-3:

"Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee . . . And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing . . . And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed."

Did God keep His promise to Abraham? Yes! Ten thousand times yes. Did God keep His promise to America through John Robinson and his little group of Christians? Ten thousand Amens to this! God blessed America fulfilling His promise of "I will bless thee."

This little band built churches before they built forts. Worship of God was the paramount issue. The day began with prayer and ended with thanksgiving for divine protection. God was thanked for each bounty from His omniscient hand. Chastity and purity abounded. The family altar was erected and each member was summoned to the holy place daily for prayer, worship and devotion. Home was home and not the hell of woe we see today. God was honored and not dishonored. Again we find the similarity of America to Israel in Jeremiah 2:3: "ISRAEL WAS HOLINESS UNTO THE LORD, EVIL SHALL COME UPON ALL THAT OFFEND THEE." The United Colonies were holiness unto the Lord. Atheism, agnosticism, beastism and evolution were unknown. Children were reared in God-fearing homes and this land of plenty was blessed of God beyond all of the lands ever known. "I will bless them that bless thee, and will curse them that curseth thee." It was God's policy for America.

Small in numbers but mighty in power, they were like the armies of Israel as they basked in the sunshine of God's smile and walked in the privilege of His promise. "There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: As I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee" (Josh. 1:5).

### Victorious Conquests

The first challenge was made to their God given heritage by the French and Indian wars. Outnumbered and outmanned, by the power of God they were invincible and victorious. Against English tyranny again they were outnumbered by manpower and superior equipment, BUT GOD WAS WITH THEM.

George Washington, the father of

our country, was not only a great general; he was a great Christian. Before he led his armies to battle HE LED THEM IN PRAYER. With their eyes kindled with divine light, the inner man strengthened with power from on high, they walked barefooted, ragged and hungry through Valley Forge, leaving their footprints of blood in the snow; they blazed the trail of glory across the ice floes of the Delaware and wrenched this empire from the great hands of the oppressor. They conquered frontiers and wrenched from the grasp of pagan Spain the great territory of Texas.

General Sam Houston, by the same spirit and with the same vision; his little army outnumbered five to one, vindicated the shameful murder of the Alamo and the Goliad, and from this vast domain came the greatest nation and empire ever to be built upon this terrestrial ball.

### America, the Fountainhead of Christianity

America became a Christian nation; the fountainhead of Christianity. It was the outlet of God's great missionary enterprise. Churches were formed. Missionaries were sent to every nation in the world. God's Word was sent forth to every kindred, tongue, and tribe. Go yonder and look at the proud flag which waves over this land. It was conceived in Christian precepts: the red representing "the blood of Jesus Christ which cleanseth from all sin." The white, "the spotless purity of Christ." The blue, "The Divinity and Deity of God's own son."

For decades it proudly waved over a nation which had this testimony. "It pleased God." Upon these shores God built an empire more beautiful than Babylon; greater in strength than Medo-Persia; superior in battle to Greece; finer in culture and art than ancient Rome. Today we have more automobiles, more telephones, more conveniences and a higher standard of living than any nation upon the face of the globe.

But we are standing at the crossroads. Today we are but a remnant of what we once were. Our purity has been debauched. Our strength has been dissipated. Our purpose has been defiled. We are on the brink of ruin. Why? Can you ask such a question? Let me give you the answer: AMERICA HAS FORGOTTEN GOD. God's case against Israel is God's case against America. "Have the nations changed their Gods which are no Gods . . . For my people have changed their Gods for that which doth not profit . . . They have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and they have hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water."

In this same chapter of scripture God asks Israel the question: "WHAT INIQUITY HAVE YOUR FATHERS FOUND IN ME, THAT THEY HAVE GONE FROM ME AND WALKED AFTER VANITY?"

God is asking America the same question: What iniquity have the people found in God that we have turned away from Him to follow after vanity? In spite of our national crisis we are not calling upon God. We are not seeking God's

face nor God's favor. Our politicians put me in the mind of pagans who tried to row old backslidden Jonah to the shore. THEY ROWED HARD BUT THE SEA WROUGHT TEMPESTUOUSLY.

All of our efforts to heal our land and to remedy the present evils have failed. Our land is wasted like Israel of old. Our grain is rotting. Our gold and silver is cankered. Our merchandise is all moth-eaten and much of our populace is starving. We have lost our strength. We have lost our vision. We have lost our courage and our integrity. We have lost our sterling character. We have lost our matchless morals, our decency, and our virtue. Our manhood is gone. Our self-reliance is gone, and today we are hapless, helpless and hopeless.

### "He That Soweth To the Wind Shall Reap the Whirlwind"

God chided Israel in this same chapter and asks this question, "HAST THOU NOT PROCURED THIS UNTO THYSELF?" Why do we no longer have national days of prayer? We have defiled the Lord's day. Sunday is desecrated, our church doors are closed. We no longer thank God nor praise Him. We no longer honor Him, and like Israel:

"WE HAVE FORSAKEN THE FOUNTAIN OF LIVING WATERS AND HAVE HEWED FOR OURSELVES CISTERN, EMPTY CISTERN WHICH CAN HOLD NO WATER."

We have forsaken the fountain of the church for the empty cisterns of Godless greed. We have forsaken the altar of prayer for empty cisterns of science. We have forsaken the Word of God for the slush and filth of degenerate magazines filled with corruption of hell heated brains. We have forsaken the fundamentals of Christian experience for the empty cisterns of modern thought. Educators have forsaken the concrete facts of the Bible for the empty cisterns of evolution. We have forsaken brotherly love and charity to the poor, for the filthy lucre of the whiskey tax which has been wrung from the virtue of women, the strength of manhood, the tears of orphans and the heartaches of mothers.

### America Has Committed Two Evils

"They have forsaken God, the fountain of living waters, and have hewed them out cisterns, EMPTY CISTERNS THAT CAN HOLD NO WATER." Our nation is at the crossroads. Society is at the crossroads. Religion is at the crossroads. It is either back to God, back to the Bible, and back to the altar of prayer, or IT IS BACK TO THE DARK AGES. If there is no revival there will be no survival.

Regardless of the insane rantings of the fool atheist and the scoffings of rattlebrained agnostics, GOD IS STILL ON THE THRONE. God is still dealing with His people. God's ear is still open to prayer.

### God's Remedy For America

Yes, my friends, I am happy to say, "GOD DOES HAVE A REMEDY FOR AMERICA." His remedy is the same for all nations. You will not find that remedy in the

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## BIBLE FACTS ABOUT HEAVEN

BY JOHN R. RICE, D. D.



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## God's Challenge To The Nation

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE TWO)

vain efforts of puny man. You will find that remedy in God's Book:

**"IF MY PEOPLE WHICH ARE CALLED BY MY NAME SHALL HUMBLE THEMSELVES, AND PRAY, AND SEEK MY FACE, AND TURN FROM THEIR WICKED WAYS . . . THEN WILL I HEAR FROM HEAVEN, AND WILL FORGIVE THEIR SIN, AND WILL HEAL THEIR LAND."**

God's controversy today is not with the dictators or agitators, nor yet the imitators. These war lords are men of God's vengeance whose hour is appointed. These modern Pharaohs are appointed of God to bring His people to their knees. God raised up Pharaoh to drive Israel to the promised land. God has permitted the dictators for the purpose of forcing His people to their knees. Look what is happening in China today. The Christian people in China forgot God. They began to eat, drink and make merry and take their ease. The military machine of Japan has driven Christians to their knees and today a great revival is breaking out in inland China.

France forgot God. France had no time for God; but today the people of France are on their knees as never before.

England forgot God. They slumbered and slept; they did not heed God's Word; they became indifferent; spirituality was neglected; the house of prayer was forsaken; the Bible was neglected; the house of God was forsaken; "they ate," "they drank," "they made merry," and God listened to the musings of their heart as He did of the rich fool, and said, "Thou fool, this day thy soul shall be required of thee." German bombs have laid their cities low and their cathedrals low, BUT A GREAT REVIVAL HAS SPRUNG UP. Prayer meetings are held on every street corner. The Word of God is being read and preached in bomb shelters. Thousands who had no time for church are finding Christ in the subways and in the terror of the night.

Must America have the same lesson? Must God plead against us with blood, pestilence and famine as He is pleading with His people in Europe? OR SHALL WE ACCEPT HIS REMEDY?

"If my people which are called in my name, shall humble themselves and pray, and turn from their wicked ways, and seek my face, THEN WILL I HEAR FROM HEAVEN, AND HEAL THEIR LAND."

Yes, God has a remedy. God is ready to restore America to its rightful place in the sun. God's order is, "RETURN UNTO ME AND I WILL RETURN UNTO YOU." God's ear has always been open to the prayer of His people.

Let me cite you some historic and concrete examples. Wicked-

## IS IT A SIN FOR CHRISTIANS TO WEAR JEWELRY?

"Do not First Timothy 2:9-10 and First Peter 3:3 forbid jewelry—not only costly but cheap jewelry also?" some one asks.

The answer is: No, they do not forbid jewelry. Examine First Peter

ness was rampant in Elijah's day. Baal worship was substituted for Christianity. God shut up the heaven and there was no rain in the land. Wickedness flourished on every hand. The false prophets were unable to restore prosperity to the nation. GOD CALLED ELIJAH AND ELIJAH CALLED THE PEOPLE'S HEART BACK TO GOD on Mount Carmel, and God heard: And God answered from heaven, and God healed their land.

In Jeremiah's day Israel was afflicted the same as we are afflicted. They were beset by social ills, financial ills, and physical ills. Under mighty preaching of the Word they turned back to God, and God heard their cry and healed their land.

We need anti-aircraft guns. Yes! But these will be of no avail if God's people do not bombard heaven with their prayers. We need armaments. Yes! But if we are not spiritually armed, all of the guns and ammunition will fail. LET US TAKE A LESSON FROM FRANCE. Here we see a mighty nation with seven million soldiers armed to their teeth. The best soldiers of the world, yet at the first sign of danger they threw their guns away and fled. Why? Because there was nothing left in France's rotten social structure worth fighting for. Boys raised in loose moraled homes found no inspiration to protect virtue of mothers who had no virtue. Men found no inspiration to fight for sweethearts whose morals were loose, whose life was promiscuous, and whose spirituality was so degenerate there was nothing left to fan a single spark of manhood into flame.

Oh, my people! LET US TURN BACK TO GOD. Without God and without the Bible, without the church, without the sanctity of the home, without freedom of worship, THERE IS NOTHING WORTH FIGHTING FOR. Uncle Sam needs to be upon his knees thanking God for past mercies and pleading for future mercy. Remember, He has promised and God has never broken a single promise yet. All of man's Godless science has failed. All of man's Godless political schemes have failed. All of man's Godless scientific ingenuity has failed. Let us turn back to the Bible and back to God. "If my people which are called in my name, shall humble themselves and pray, and turn from their wicked ways, and seek my face, THEN WILL I HEAR FROM HEAVEN, AND HEAL THEIR LAND."

May God bless every one of you.

3:3, 4 closely and you will see what the Scripture means.

"Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; but let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price."

Notice that those verses say a woman's adorning is not to be this outward adorning. A woman's ornament is to be a meek and quiet spirit, the adornment of the heart. No woman is to trust in outward adornment to make her beautiful, to hold her husband's love, or anything of the kind. She is to have the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, a pure heart, a surrendered life.

Notice that verse 3 specially mentions "putting on apparel." Now this verse does not forbid a woman's putting on clothes. Certainly women ought to wear clothes. But the clothes are not to be merely for adornment. What I mean is that no woman should be vain, should have her heart set on her clothes, nor expect nice clothes to make her beautiful. Real beauty is of the heart.

In the same way, it is not forbidden for a woman to plait her hair. The point is that her plaited hair is not a woman's true beauty. A woman may plait her hair and have a meek and quiet spirit too, but no woman pleases God who depends on outside adornment to make her attractive. The same is true about jewelry. Jewelry is often mentioned in the Bible without reproach. For example, Abraham's servant took ear rings for Rebekah as a gift from Isaac whom she had never seen (Gen. 24:22). In the story of the prodigal son, Jesus tells how the Father got a ring for the boy's finger (Luke 15:22). The high priest in the Old Testament wore certain golden ornaments, bells and pomegranates and breastplate and golden chains. So the wearing of clothes, or plaiting or combing the hair, or wearing of jewelry is not forbidden in First Peter 3:3, but the Lord plainly says that that is not to be a woman's adornment. Her adornment is to be in the heart.

Likewise, First Timothy 2:9, 10 says:

"In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with braided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; but (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works."

Look carefully and see what is a woman's adornment. It is to be "with shamefacedness and sobriety." I think, really with modesty and sobriety. And verse 10 says "with good works." That Scripture forbids immodesty, expensive dressing perhaps, but certainly forbids a woman having her heart set on her clothes. Vanity in dress is a sin. It is the same kind of a sin when the vanity is about an expensive sable coat, or a diamond necklace, as it would be about a bow of ribbon in the hair, or a cheap gingham dress. Vanity is a sin. For a woman to have her thoughts centered on her appearance is a sin.

In Bible times, people did wear gold and nice clothes, even to church, as you see from James 2:2, and it was not forbidden. But it is forbidden for Christians to be vain and worldly-minded about clothing or any kind of ornamentation.

Some people are just as vain about looking slovenly. One wicked man that I knew in Oklahoma City would not trust Christ as his Saviour, and yet he insisted that he was so much better than church members because he wore overalls and would never wear a tie! And I have met other Christians, men who wouldn't wear buttons on their coats, but fastened them with hooks and eyes, and thereby thought they were better than other Christians! It is not so much what you wear that is a sin, but it is the attitude of mind and heart that God sees and judges.

Christians should dress modestly, and without extravagance. But mainly, Christians should not be vain or worldly-minded about clothes. Also, let us be careful not to become vain that we do not dress nicely, for that would be the same kind of a sin.

## DO ALL CHRISTIANS SIN?

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

and yet Abraham took his father and stopped by the way in Haran till his father died (Gen. 11:31, 32). Abraham told a half-lie, saying that his wife, Sarah, was his sister. He did it twice, once down in Egypt, and once many years later in Gerar (Gen. 12:10-13; Gen. 20:2). Both times Abraham got into trouble and caused others trouble by his deceit. Abraham was not sinless, though he was an earnest man of God.

Lot was a man of God, a saved man, but he sinned. Second Peter 2:7, 8 says that God—

"delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked. For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds."

God said that Lot was a "just" man, that he was a "righteous man," and that he had a "righteous soul." There can be no doubt that in God's sight, Lot was counted a saved man. But how far wrong Lot went! Read Genesis 13:1-13, and the nineteenth chapter of Genesis and you will see that Lot was covetous, that he ran in bad company in wicked Sodom, that he lost all influence over his children and sons-in-law and that he got drunk and ruined his own daughters! If he had won nine other souls so there would have been ten, Sodom would have been spared, but as far as we know, that poor, backslidden man did not save a single soul. Lot sinned, sinned wickedly, though he was a saved man. Don't judge Lot by what you think. You must take God's Word for it in Second Peter 2:7, 8, that in God's eyes he was a just, a righteous man with a righteous soul. But he sinned.

Moses sinned too. He is regarded as the greatest man of the Old Testament. He is called the meekest man that ever lived. He wrote the first five books of the Bible. He established the Jewish nation. He was one of the two men that came back from Heaven to meet Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration. He was a spirit-filled man; and yet Moses sinned. When Moses was an old man God did not let him go into the land of Canaan because of his sin, but took him up to the Mount Nebo to die there. In Deuteronomy 32:51, God explains to Moses, "Because ye trespassed against me among the children of Israel at the waters of Meribah-Kadesh, in the wilderness of Zin; because ye sanctified me not in the midst of the children of Israel."

Moses got angry and disobeyed God, smiting the rock instead of speaking to it in obedience to God's command. God called his sin rebellion (Num. 27:14). So Moses, too, was a sinner, a saved, forgiven sinner who went to Heaven by grace and not by living without sin.

Job, too, was a sinner. Although he was a righteous man in the sight of men. God said about Job that "That man was perfect and up-

right, and one that feared God and eschewed evil" (Job 1:1). Perfect here means simply wholehearted or out-and-out for God. It does not mean sinless, for later in the same book we are told how God showed Job his sin. In Job 42:6, this upright man acknowledged his sin and said, "Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes." He had been proud and self-righteous, had argued with God, but when he saw his sin he repented of it. Job, like all other Christians, was not sinless. He was saved by grace, through faith.

David was a man after God's own heart, the Scripture says, and yet David sinned many, many times. David committed adultery with Bath-sheba and had her husband, Uriah, killed (II Sam., chap. 11), and shed so much blood that God would not allow him to build the temple at Jerusalem (I Chron. 22:8 and 28:3).

The fifty-first Psalm shows the penitent attitude of David after some of these sins. And Second Samuel 12:13 tells us:

"And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the Lord. And Nathan said unto David, The Lord also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die."

Though David was a saved man, he admitted his sin of adultery and murder, and God forgave his sin. He did not die as he deserved, though later he had many heartaches over his children who followed after his sins and brought him trouble and shame. No child of God ever got by with sin. God punishes sin and chastens his children. But those who have trusted in Him are His children truly, though it is true that they did sin.

Peter was the first of the apostles, yet Peter sinned. He lied, cursed, denied that he even knew Jesus. What a cowardly and wicked thing to do! Yet that was at least three years after he had been wonderfully saved and had left his fishing business and all that he had to follow Jesus everywhere. But hear what Jesus had said to Peter:

"31. And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not; and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren."

— Luke 22:31, 32.

Jesus prayed for Peter's faith not to fail, nor was his soul lost though he committed such sin. And when Peter got straightened out again, he was able to witness to the brethren, how Jesus forgives sinning Christians.

But later on, long after Pentecost and after Peter had been filled with the Holy Spirit for years, we find that he sinned again. Paul, in Galatians 2:11-14, says:

"11. But when Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed. 12. For before that certain came from James, he did eat with the Gentiles; but when they were come, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing them which were of the circumcision. 13. And the other Jews dissembled likewise with him; insomuch that Barnabas also was carried away with their dissimulation. 14. But when I saw that they walked not uprightly according to the truth of the gospel, I said unto Peter before them all, If thou being a Jew, livest after the manner of the Gentiles, and not as do the Jews, why compellest thou the Gentiles to live as do the Jews?"

Here again Peter's cowardice came back. He was afraid to face

(CONTINUED ON PAGE FOUR)

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## DO ALL CHRISTIANS SIN?

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE THREE)

the prejudiced Jewish Christians, so he quit having anything to do with Gentile Christians and led the other Jews who had been saved to "dissemble," that is, to act deceitfully, as if they had never eaten a meal with these Gentile converts. Peter even led good old Barnabas into the same deceit. How wicked that was! So Paul publicly reproved Peter for his sin.

Peter was a preacher who had been filled with the Holy Spirit many times, an apostle, a great man, but since he was human, he was still a sinner.

Paul the Apostle was the greatest man of the New Testament, but he sinned many, many times after he was already saved and filled with the Holy Spirit and called to be an Apostle. Paul wrote about half of the books of the New Testament and he mentions his own sins many times.

In First Timothy 1:15 Paul says: "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief."

Notice that Paul did not say "sinners, of whom I was chief." No, he said "sinners of whom I am chief." When Paul wrote that passage, by divine inspiration, then he was still, that day, chief of sinners. That is not merely Paul's opinion but the inspired Word of God.

"If a man say, 'I am ignorant,' he does not mean 'I was ignorant.' If a man says, 'I am sick,' he does not mean, 'I was sick.' And, as the Holy Spirit inspired Paul to say, 'I am chief of sinners,' then he meant in the present tense, that he was still a sinner. Do not trifle with the Bible. It says what it means. Paul, though saved, was still a sinner.

The only righteousness Paul ever claimed was the righteousness of Christ. The struggle of his mind and heart toward personal righteousness is mentioned more than once in his divinely inspired letters, in the Bible. In Philippians 3:7-14, he tells us plainly that it is not his righteousness, which is of the law, but that imputed righteousness of God, which he received by faith in Christ. That Scripture says:

"7. But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. 8. Yea, doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ. 9. And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the

## Pitching Our Tents Toward Sodom

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

stroy people's faith in your spiritual devotion.

The tragic ruin of this family did not stop here. As Lot, with his wife and two single daughters, fled from the city, the wife looked back and became a pillar of salt. The two daughters later made their father drunk and became mothers of children through the human agency of their drunken father.

What a tragic price to pay for rolling plains, sparkling streams, fat cattle and woolly sheep! It would have been far better had he remained out on the hills, dwelling in a tent with old uncle Abraham and his family preserved from the pitfalls and wickedness of the great city. No wonder Paul wrote:

"But godliness with contentment is great gain.

"For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.

"And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.

"But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.

"For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows."

— I Timothy 6:6-10.

righteousness which is of God by faith: 10. That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; 11. If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead. 12. Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. 13. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, 14. I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

— Philippians 3:7-14.

Several statements in that passage must be noticed. Verse 12 says, "Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after..." Paul was not perfect. That would only come at the resurrection of the dead. In verse 13 and 14, he tells how, though he has neither apprehended or reached that perfect state which will come at the resurrection of the dead yet he reaches forth and presses toward that mark.

When Paul plainly says he was not perfect, we must believe him. He was saved, but not sinless.

Paul's struggle, fighting against his own sinful nature, after he was already a spirit-filled apostle of Jesus Christ is told also in Romans 7:14-25, which says:

"14. For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin. 15. For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that I do not; but what I hate, that I do. 16. If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good. 17. Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. 18. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. 19. For the good that I would I do not; but the evil which I would not, that I do. 20. Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. 21. I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. 22. For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: 23. But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. 24. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? 25. I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin."

— Romans 7:14-25.

The above passage shows that Paul, after he was saved, had two natures. He had a new heart. He was a child of God. He wanted to do right. But the old man was still there, the old nature appeared also. Paul was still a human being with a human body under the curse of sin and with a human nature under the curse of sin.

Notice how many times that passage speaks of failure and sin. Paul, the saved man, did not do what he wanted to do. The things he did, he hated. He could will or decide to do good things, verse 18 tells us, but did not find the strength to perform that which was good. His inward man delighted in the law of God, verse 22 tells us, but sin dwelling in him continued. Before Paul was saved he was one man, corrupt, wicked, lost. After he was saved he was two men. One was the new man, the born-again child of God, partaking of the divine nature. But the other was the old sinful nature which he still had. There was a constant struggle between the two natures in Paul as there is in every Christian who earnestly tries to serve God.

Some people foolishly say that this was an earlier Christian experience of Paul, but that later he had all sin eliminated, that he never sinned any more. But that idea is pure invention of men. The Bible says nothing of the kind. The

seventh chapter of Romans and the eighth chapter of Romans, as far as we know, were both written at the same time, both written by the same Holy Spirit through Paul, and they harmonize perfectly. They were not even divided into chapters when written, but were one undivided passage. And this passage of scripture uses the present tense all the time. When Paul the apostle wrote this letter to the Romans he was still in a struggle against the old sinful nature. That battle was never completely won until Paul's spirit got to Heaven.

Every other Christian who has grown much in grace and has honestly searched the scriptures has learned that he, too, does not do all he wants to do because of sin that dwells in him.

Some of Paul's sins are mentioned in the Bible, sins he committed after he was saved and filled with the Holy Spirit, after he was an apostle of God, winning thousands of souls. For example, Paul and Barnabas had a severe disagreement over whether they should take John Mark with them. Acts 15:39 says:

"And the contention was so sharp between them, that they departed asunder one from the other: and so Barnabas took Mark, and sailed unto Cyprus."

The word *contention* is a bad word. The Greek word for it in this verse is the one from which we get paroxysm. It means a very sharp dispute. Barnabas and Paul broke up their evangelistic partnership in this great contention. We never hear of them working together again. What a sad thing! It was just like what sometimes happens now among Christian workers.

Paul and Barnabas were human beings and they sinned. They were Godly men, saved men, surrendered to the will of God, yet in this case they fell into temptation, like other Christians do.

Another case where Paul sinned is told also. God had plainly told Paul that the Jews would not hear him, that he should get out of Jerusalem (Acts 22:18). But Paul argued with the Lord and the Lord insisted again, "Depart: for I will send thee far hence unto the Gentiles" (Acts 22:21). That is Paul's own account, after he was arrested in Jerusalem, when he came back, contrary to the commands of God.

On the way up to Jerusalem, Paul had landed at Tyre and there the Holy Spirit impressed Christians plainly to urge Paul not to go to Jerusalem against the command of God. Acts 21:4 says:

"And finding disciples, we tarried there seven days: who said to Paul through the Spirit, that he should not go up to Jerusalem."

But disobeying this plain command of the Holy Spirit that he should not go to Jerusalem, Paul went on. He went to Caesarea, another step on the journey to Jerusalem. And there the prophet Agabus warned him again. Acts 21:11 tells us:

"And when he was come unto us, he took Paul's girdle, and bound his own hands and feet, and said, Thus saith the Holy Ghost, So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man that owneth this girdle, and shall deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles."

Paul here disregarded the plain command of God, often repeated to him. Instead of doing good at Jerusalem he was arrested, spent some years in jail without a chance to preach or win souls and at last was sent, a prisoner, to Rome. God did not quit Paul but he suffered for his willfulness and disobedience.

Paul, then, was a sinner. He was probably the most wonderful Christian the world has ever seen, but he sinned as all the children of God do.

We may safely say then that all the great Christians in the Bible sinned. And every Christian in the world sins these days, also, just as Bible Christians did.

## II. The Bible Expressly Teaches That Every Christian Sins

And now let us look at some plain statements of God's Word, not only showing that all people have sinned in the past, but showing that all people do sin in the present, regularly.

Solomon in his inspired prayer of dedication for the new temple begged God to hear the prayers of all people who came to the Temple. He said, "If they sin against thee, (for there is no man that

sinneth not), and thou be angry with them..." (I Kings 8:46). In the same prayer, as recorded in Second Chronicles 6:36 says the same thing, "(For there is no man which sinneth not)," and that, too, is in parenthesis as an incidental statement which everyone would be expected to take for granted!

Solomon, the wisest man in the world, said that *there is no man on earth that does not sin*. And that statement is recorded in the Bible. We believe his prayer was inspired of God. Certainly his wisdom was given from God. And Solomon said "there is no man that sinneth not."

He did not say, "There is no man that has not sinned," that is, in the past. No, he says simply that there is no man that does not sin in the present. There were saved men, including Solomon himself but these saved people sinned. Certainly, then, in Solomon's days, all Christians sinned.

But in the New Testament times, all Christians sinned, too. In fact Christ Jesus, our Lord, plainly commanded every Christian to confess every day that he has sinned. The disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray, and Jesus gave them the model prayer, known everywhere as The Lord's Prayer. Jesus commanded:

"When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth."

"3. Give us day by day our daily bread.

"4. And forgive us our sins..."

"AND FORGIVE US OUR SINS!" That is the model prayer which Jesus commanded every Christian to pray every day! It is to be a daily prayer, because it includes daily bread. And every honest Christian who obeys Christ and prays this prayer, confesses daily that he has sinned and asks the dear Heavenly Father to forgive His weak sinful child, that is, not to let the sin break the fellowship with the Father or bring His chastisement on His saved one.

It may be that you, dear reader, never say to God, "Forgive me my sins." Then if you do not, that is simply an added sin, the sin of disobedience added to the sin of proud self-righteousness. You had better take God's Word for it that you do daily sin, instead of refusing to confess and ask forgiveness as Jesus commanded. If you are not conscious of your sin, just remember how wicked the human heart is, "deceitful above all things and desperately wicked; who can know it," says Jeremiah 17:9. Sin hides away in the heart and deceives you. Satan makes his ministers like angels of light and makes sin appear good. Do not be deceived, take the word of Jesus that you do sin daily, and obey Him by praying, "and forgive us our sins." That is for all Christians, for all Christians sin.

Again we have the plain word of Jesus Christ as recorded in Matthew 19:16, 17, which says:

"16. And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?

"17. And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments."

This one came and called Jesus "Good Master." Jesus answered him sharply and said, "Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God."

Jesus simply meant, that he if he were God, He was more than a master, Rabbi, or teacher. Jesus is good because Jesus is God! In plain speech Jesus said that there is none good but God. He meant that everybody else in the world sins. Jesus did not sin. Jesus was good because he was God. Yet no one else can meet that standard because all the other people in the world sin. Preachers, Apostles, Prophets, Christians of every kind sin. There is no exception. *There is none good but God!* Is there one who reads this who, in the face of Christ's own statement will claim to be sinless and good? Then you make Christ a liar, who said, "There is none good but one, that is God." So Christians do sin, all of them.

The third chapter of Romans truly teaches that every person in the world is a sinner. Verses 9 to 12 say:

"9. What then? are we bet-

ter than they? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin; 10. As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: 11. There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. 12. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one."

— Romans 3:9-12.

The passage includes every person in the world saved and lost, as present-tense sinners. Notice again these true statements.

"Both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin." All the Jews and all the Gentiles are now under sin. That includes all the lost Jews and all the saved Jews, all the lost Gentiles and all the saved Gentiles.

Verse 10 says, "There is none righteous, no, not one." Notice again the present tense. There is not now, the passage says, at this moment, a single righteous person in the world! So Christians are not righteous, in themselves. Christians are sinners.

Not only are all the people in the world unrighteous but their acts are sinful. They do not do good. Verse 12 says, "There is none that doeth good, no, not one." There is not a single Christian that does good, that is that never sins. That is what the Scripture says, and that is what it means. All Christians sin.

Let us very prayerfully notice another positive statement of God's Word. The beloved Apostle John wrote the First Epistle of John after he was an old, old man, probably ninety years old or more. He was the last of the Apostles left alive. He had been wonderfully filled with the spirit at Pentecost and many times since. But even the baptism in the Holy Spirit did not make him sinless. The divinely inspired John wrote in First John 1:8:

"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us."

John the Beloved Apostle says that if we Christians, including himself, say that we have no sin, we are simply deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us at all! If we say that now, at this moment, we have no sin in us, we are self-deceived. He does say that Christians once had sin and are now freed from it, but rather he says plainly that all Christians, do, now, at the present time, have sin. If you, dear reader, say you have no sin now you are simply fooling yourself. Your heart is more wicked than you think! Satan has used your pride to deceive you.

This means that every Christian still has within himself a nature so sinful that he is not conscious of all his own wickedness. Remember again here the Scripture which says, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" (Jer. 17:9).

You may have a grudge in your heart of which you are not now conscious, but when the one who has wronged you before offends you again, it will flame out hotter than ever. Or maybe this moment you are neglecting prayer or Bible study or you are out of the will of God in other ways, of which you have not thought. Not a single Christian truthfully can say that he has no sin, even at this moment. "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us." If that was true about the Beloved Apostle John it is true about every other Christian in the world. All Christians do sin.

Next week's *Sword of the Lord*, God willing, will have another strong article on this same question, "Do All Christians Sin?" with overwhelming proof to those who believe the Bible and are willing to take God's Word as the final answer. It will also explain what the Bible means by the term *holiness*, will explain the scriptures which are often misunderstood on this question, such as Matthew 5:48, Hebrews 12:14, First John 3:6-10, and First John 5:18. Then we plan to show why people are deceived on this question, claiming to be sinless, what unconfessed and unrepented sin brings to a Christian, and last, how to live a victorious life. Be sure to read and have friends read these articles. And let us forsake our wicked self-righteousness, give all hope of keeping ourselves by sinlessness, and daily, as Jesus commanded us, pray to our Heavenly Father to "forgive us our sins."